

Hafa Adai!

10 years of empowering CNMI youth: 4-H Camp Maga'lahi counselors. **PAGE 2**
Rotary announces \$160K in available scholarships. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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Frahm

AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

Frahm faces possible 13-year sentence

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David Matthew Frahm, a former local high school teacher, has pleaded guilty to charges involving child pornography and faces a possible 13-year sentence.

Last Tuesday, Frahm appeared before District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for a change of plea hearing.

During the hearing, Frahm pleaded guilty to counts two and three of the

See **FRAHM** on Page 4

House passes FY25 budget without revision

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives has passed its version of the fiscal year 2025 budget without revisions.

In a statement from Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), he said the House of Representatives has passed its version of the FY 2025 budget without revisions to the budget proposed by the Office of the Governor last July 1. Currently, the House awaits the Senate's version.

"As of date we don't have a revised budget. We passed our

See **BUDGET** on Page 4

Rape trial extends to 4th day

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday concluded Day 3 in the jury trial of a former Superior Court employee accused of

raping his coworker.

Formerly a law clerk under CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo,

William Abraczinkas stands accused of raping his coworker last April 2023 and is facing charges of sexual assault in the

See **TRIAL** on Page 4



CHRYSTAL MARINO
William Abraczinkas walks into Day 3 of his jury trial yesterday at the Superior Court in Susupe.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The prosecution team in the William Abraczinkas jury trial leaves the Superior Court in Susupe yesterday.



Tropical storm signal conditions lifted

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Acting governor David M. Apatang

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Smiling Cove Marina in the late morning yesterday as heavy rains from Tropical Storm Bebinca drenches Saipan.

canceled tropical storm signal conditions for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota yesterday at 2pm.

The Office of the Governor's cancellation of tropical storm conditions was made in consultation with the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam and the CNMI Homeland

See **STORM** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted a very successful "Back to School Bash" last Aug. 24.

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NATION

To many Democrats, Kamala Harris was everything Joe Biden was not in confronting Donald Trump on the debate stage: forceful, fleet of foot, relentless in going after her opponent.

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LIFE & STYLE

When the Princess of Wales announced that she had completed chemotherapy treatment in a soft-focus, Instagram-ready video, she ventured into realms not previously inhabited by Britain's royal family

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

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EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

10 years of empowering CNMI youth: 4-H Camp Maga'lahi counselors

This year marked 10 years of 4-H Camp Maga'lahi, an outdoor summer camp that empowers CNMI youth with skills and memories that will last a lifetime. Across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, this year's Camp Maga'lahi trained and engaged 109 youth counselors ages 13-19. These skilled counselors successfully engaged over 300 campers, ages 5 to 12, by facilitating experiential learning activities and

collaborating with partnering organizations. They created a fun-filled and secure environment that fostered a strong sense of belonging and inclusivity for all participants. Held from June to early August, 4-H Camp Maga'lahi celebrated its 10-year anniversary with five sessions. Two sessions were held collectively on Tinian and Rota, while three took place on Saipan. Counselors and camp-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Counselors and campers shout their final camp cheer on the final day of 4-H Camp Maga'lahi Rota.

ers are sorted into four houses named after ancient Chamorro chiefs: Taga, Hurao, Kepuha, and Gadao. Counselors cultivate a deep sense of belonging among campers by organizing lively house cheers, awarding house points, and facilitating a range of engaging activities that enhance community spirit within their house.

In preparation for the camp, counselors completed a four-day long training on how to effectively guide their campers throughout the week-long adventure. The training included participating in and demonstrating mastery modules focused on Camp Logistics, Behavior Management, Conflict Management, Identifying Stereotyping, Recreation Training, and many more. The counselors bonded through additional activities such as playing camp songs and games.

Throughout the week-long Camp Maga'lahi sessions, counselors led campers to explore a variety of learning opportunities such as learning about CNMI local culture, cultural weaving, slinging, dancing, blowing of conch shells, talaya fishing and experiencing the island's nature. They also enjoyed outdoor activities, such as playing football with the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association at

the Koblerville Soccer Training Center as well as singing camp songs and showing off their house pride.

A parent of a camper expressed their appreciation for the opportunities their child was offered, sharing, "I appreciate all camp leaders, counselors, staff and everyone involved in this event who took care and gave my child experiences to see the different activities that were offered! Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity to help the kids grow and learn things outside of their home and school." Parents have noted remarkable growth in their children, with one remarking, "My kids have blossomed in such a short time socially." Another parent shared that their son is so inspired by his experience that he is now considering becoming a counselor himself in the future.

A counselor shared how 4-H Camp Maga'lahi was also an amazing opportunity for counselors to empower their leadership skills. They stated, "I learned that everyone including me has a chance to shine, camp helped me to open up to new people. I learned how to make conversations and to be a friendly face in the community. I am grateful to know that I can talk to people without feeling judged, that's what I learned about myself. I can become a person I never thought I'd be."

Family, Community, and Youth Development
See YOUTH on Page 4

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TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
d. Adoption of Minutes
1. August 13, 2024 - Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. REPORTS

a. Chair's Report
b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Clear Management Group's Casino Service Industry License No. CSI-2021-01
b. ED Recommendation No. 2024-10

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF:] FCD-GU CIVIL] ACTION NO.] 24-0364

John Suda Taman]
An Incompetent Person] **NOTICE OF HEARING**

By:]
John Randy Taman]
Petitioner(s)]

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the above-named by (Name of Petitioner(s) John Randy Taman, Petitioner(s), was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said Petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at the CNMI Judiciary before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 16th day of September, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

_____/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Rotary announces \$160K in available scholarships

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
 raxfloyd@gmail.com
 CORRESPONDENT

Rotary Club of Saipan announced that the Rotary International District 2750 Global Grant for the Pacific Basin Group is making available \$160,000 in college scholarships for the 2025-2026 Rotary year.

According to Rotary of Club Saipan president Joann Aquino, there will only be four grant scholarship awardees and each scholar will be paid \$40,000 for round-trip airfare for one person in economy class, tuition, course materials, lodging equivalent to a dormitory with double occupancy, and food for university cafeteria level.

It will be available for college students from Rotary Club's Pacific Basin, which includes Guam, Saipan, Micronesia, and Palau.

The purpose of the scholarship is to support scholars who wish to contribute to the world in the fields of Rotary Club's seven areas of focus. The scholars shall serve the role of a bridge between the sponsoring country and the hosting country, bringing interaction of Rotary clubs with communities.

The grant's eligibility requirements include courses related to the following subjects—peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; community economic develop-

ment, and environment. MBA applicants are not eligible.

In addition, the grant's eligibility is open to those who have completed or are expected to complete a university course by April 2025, applicants for a graduate-level educational program for Fall 2025 enrolment, and accommodation in the area of admitted educational institutions with quick access to the hosting Rotary district. The eligibility also includes having a permanent or present residential address in Rotary International District 2750 and a student at a university or a graduate school or have a full-time job in Rotary International District 2750.

The program has no restrictions on gender, marital status, or age. The applicant must have obtained a level of language proficiency, which is a condition for admission to graduate school. He/she must have a permanent or present residential address in Rotary International District 2750.

Current Rotarians, employees of clubs, districts, other Rotary entities, or Rotary International; spouses, children or grandchildren by blood, legal adoption, or marriage without adoption; the spouses of those children or grandchildren, or parents or grandparents by blood of people listed above and employees of agencies, organization, or institutions that partner with Rotary International or the Foundation; former Rotarians and people who the familial

See **ROTARY** on Page 4



Aquino

DID YOU KNOW? Your child can get vaccinated at no cost

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program provides vaccines at no cost to children who qualify. About half of the children (younger than 19 years old) living in the CNMI get VFC vaccines.

Is my child able to get VFC vaccines?

Children are able to get VFC vaccines if it is before their 19th birthday and they:

- Have Medicaid
- Don't have insurance
- American Indian or Alaska Native



How much will I have to pay?

- All routinely recommended vaccines are at no cost to patients who qualify through the VFC Program
- Providers can charge fees to give each shot. However, they cannot refuse to vaccinate your child if you are unable to pay these fees.

Where can I go to get my child vaccinated?

CHCC Immunization Program	670-236-8745
CHCC Children's Clinic call	670-234-8951
CHCC Mobile Clinic call	670-287-9926/27/29
Medical Associates of the Pacific call	670-323-9000
Marianas Medical Center call	670-234-3926
Kagman Isla Community Health Center call	670-256-5242
Tinian Health Center call	670-433-9233
Tinian Isla Health Center call	670-433-4750
Rota Health Center call	670-532-9461

To find what vaccines you need please call

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Immunization Clinic at (670) 236-8745



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
 Division of Coastal Resources Management
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 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
 www.dcrmp.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: September 12, 2024

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) - Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing the following federal consistency submission(s) for consistency with the enforceable policies of the CNMI Coastal Management Program:

1) Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Consistency Determination for the Proposed Medium Intensity Approach Light System with Runway Alignment Indicator Lights (MALSR) Replacement Project at Saipan International Airport.

2) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Negative Determination for Final Coral Critical Habitat Designation in the CNMI.

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the CNMI coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's federally approved Coastal Management Program (CMP).

For more information, please visit the public notices on <https://dcrmp.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/federal-consistency/>. To submit comments, please contact the Division of Coastal Resources Management at 670 664 8300 or fedcon@dcrmp.gov.mp. Comments may be submitted within fifteen (15) days of the publication of this notice. This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42.

BUDGET

From page 1

version and so we are waiting for the Senate’s version,” he said.

In a statement from Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan), she said the Senate’s Fiscal Affairs Committee has passed the House’s version of the budget with Senate revisions and will bring the revised budget before the Senate body for approval in its upcoming Senate Session on Sept. 18.

“Our Senate session will be on Sept 18 to include this FY25 HCR as Senate the version. If the House rejects our Senate version, we will go into a conference committee,” she said.

Over the past few months, government agencies and branches have voiced their concerns about the fiscal year 2025 budget.

One of the biggest concerns raised was from the Judiciary who expressed that closure may be underway should their FY25 budget request of \$14.8 not be met.

According to the Judiciary’s budget request, it needs \$14.8 million to continue its operations. However, accord-

ing to the Office of the Governor’s revised budget proposal, it is proposing a budget of \$5.3 million for FY2025

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro informed the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means last July that due to the over \$9-million cut, whether the CNMI’s court doors remain open is uncertain.

Castro expressed that the NMI Judiciary has done its constitutional duty to submit a budget that reflects the needs of the courts, and the Office of the Governor is just doing its constitutional duty to proportionally appropriate the funds available.

“Our constitution requires me to submit a budget that accurately reflects the needs of the courts on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. To do this, we asked all division in judiciary to submit their needs for FY2025. An in-house committee of the Judiciary went through these submissions and there after Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja and I submitted the budget now before you. Some of my staff and maybe some judges were not very happy of the submission because we did not incorporate every request. Had we considered all requests, from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, our request

would be more than \$15 million now before you. The Executive Branch has fulfilled its constitutional duty by trying to proportionately allocate available funds. It is now before you, the Legislative Branch, to carefully examine whether the Judiciary has justified our FY2025 budget submission,” he said.

Yumul, House Ways and Means committee chair, expressed that he is in support of the court’s request but it’s difficult to move funds around especially since all branches of government will be experiencing a 10% cut.

“The two branches don’t control the funds. Whatever is handed to us is all we have. I want to make that clear because a lot of the time our community blames this body for the proposal the administration sends us. I want to make it clear that we are in support of the court’s submission, but based on the amount given to us, the administration is asking both branches for an additional 10% cut and that makes it even more difficult for us to move funds around,” he said.

Based on the governor’s revised budget proposal, the administration has \$111,474,011 to appropriate after its obligations.

shine,” she responded back with a “Good morning handsome” as well as certain messages where she sent kissy faced emojis.

She maintained that she had been annoyed at times with him, but was trying her best to treat him well, and conducted herself with him like she would all her male colleagues. She claims that she had absolutely no romantic or sexual attraction toward him, she said she considered him a friend once he landed, and there was no attraction as days passed.

After the incident, she said she had been so confused, blaming herself, and her mind had not been on medical attention, although contacting the cops did cross her mind.

She said she just didn’t know how to go forward. Her contacting Abraczinkas about his car’s headlights, and helping him had been another act to take responsibility, especially as she left them on. When she heard from Govendo of Abraczinkas’ sexual harassment accusations she became so angry.

“I didn’t know what I was feeling I wanted to drop dead.” Up until then she thought, “Just gonna take it to my grave. Just be brave. Just work. Satisfy judge Govendo, let the judge judge him. I will not take part in discrediting him.”

She said she kept hope that, “Maybe this is the day we are going to talk about it and maybe the day he’s going to say ‘sorry I was drunk.’” But even when she tried to start the conversa-

tion, Abraczinkas didn’t acknowledge the deed. He also insulted her in public which caused her to want to cut off the work relationship.

She shared that she continues to experience emotional trauma. “I don’t want to work here anymore. I don’t want to live here anymore.” She said she couldn’t even say hello to the replacement of Abraczinkas due to trauma.

Most of the session yesterday consisted of the victim’s testimony and cross examination by the defense team.

Later in the afternoon, the prosecution called two more witnesses to testify. Pearleen B. Matagolai and Antonio A. Reyes. During her testimony, Matagolai indicated that on one occasion, she had heard Abraczinkas tell the alleged victim she was pretty and try to get her to sit next to him, to which the alleged victim denied. She also said she heard the alleged victim had gotten flowers from Abraczinkas. She said that she had not witnessed the alleged victim act romantically toward Abraczinkas.

The defense submitted a motion of acquittal for all counts against Abraczinkas, but it was denied.

Although originally expected to end yesterday, due to time restraints and under the advice of the defense, the court will resume this morning at 10am and will consist of closing statements from both parties, and after that the case will be handed over to the jury for a verdict.

a kind of popular milk pudding there.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center upgraded 14W to a tropical storm with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph at 7am yesterday. At 1pm, JTWC reduced Bebinca back to a tropical depression with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph.

According to the Office of the Governor, canceling conditions for the islands means that damaging winds associated with Tropical Depression Bebinca are no longer expected. However, despite Tropical Depression Bebinca moving away,

all residents are advised to maintain precautionary measures for strong gusty winds and heavy rain showers.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Public School System announced that all classes, including Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Intervention programs, resumes today after Apatang issued a cancellation of tropical storm conditions for the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FRAHM

From page 1

superseding indictment filed by the United States Government specifically; possession of child pornography and engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places.

According to Frahm’s plea agreement, the possession of child pornography charge—which is a class C felony—carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years while the engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places charge—a class B felony—carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 30 years.

During the hearing, the victim’s mother appeared and addressed the court and the defendant.

Manglona, for her part, found Frahm fully competent to enter a knowing and voluntary plea and accepted his plea of guilty.

The court has since vacated the jury trial and, upon the request of both parties, has set Frahm’s sentencing for Nov. 6, at 1:30pm.

Following the hearing, Frahm was remanded back to the U.S. Marshal Service’s custody.

Pursuant to Frahm’s plea agreement, if the court accepts the agreement, the defendant will be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 156 months or about 13 years.

In addition, the court may impose a fine not to exceed \$250,000, and that a mandatory \$100 special assessment

applies to each count.

Also, unless the court finds the defendant to be indigent, an additional mandatory special assessment of \$5,000 will be imposed pursuant to the Justice for Victims Trafficking Act of 2015.

The court may also order an additional special assessment of up to \$17,000 and deprive Frahm of certain rights, such as the right to vote or the right to public assistance.

Frahm, upon his release from prison, will be placed under supervised release to be determined by the court (anywhere between a minimum of five years and a life term).

Also, Frahm will be required to register as a sex offender for 15 years if the court determines him a Tier I sex offender, or 25 years if the court determines he is a Tier II sex offender.

Depending on how many years he will be required to register as a sex offender, Frahm is mandated to keep his registration current in each jurisdiction he resides in, is an employee in, or is a student of.

Frahm shall also register in the jurisdiction in which the conviction occurred, if different from the jurisdiction of residence.

Defendant is required to provide proof of registration to the Probation Officer within three days of his release from prison.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

YOUTH

From page 2

Extension agent and State/Territory Program leader Tayna Belyeu-Camacho expressed her gratitude for the camp counselors, sharing, “4-H Camp Maga’lahi plays a crucial role in shaping future leaders and empowering young individuals to make a positive impact in their community. By fostering skills such as decision-making, teamwork, and resilience, youth-led programs like 4-H Camp Maga’lahi help cultivate the next generation of responsible, innovative, and community-minded adults.”

Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services interim dean Patty Coleman expressed her gratitude toward the 4-H Camp Maga’lahi camp counselors, stating, “Our counselors are inspirational! Look how they’ve opted to invest their time– in learning how to build positive youth development in themselves, their peers,

and with youth ages 5-12 years old. A huge thank you to the FCYD team and 4-H Marianas for their excellent leadership!”

The skilled counselors were honored for their exceptional work at the annual 4-H Camp Maga’lahi Banquet. Each counselor was recognized with a superlative award, a testament to their hard work and commitment to the camp’s success. By offering a diverse range of exploratory experiences for their campers, these counselors broadened the campers’ horizons and provided a fun, safe, and inclusive environment. Their collective efforts ensured a successful and enriching experience for all participants involved.

4-H Camp Maga’lahi is conducted in partnership with the Northern Marianas College Cooperative, Research, Extension, and Education Services Family, Community and Youth Development program.

For more information, email fcyd@marianas.edu or 4h@marianas.edu. (PR)

STORM

From page 1

Security and Emergency Management Office.

Tropical Depression Bebinca 14W was named overnight by the Japan Meteorological Agency when the agency analyzed 14W as attaining tropical storm force conditions. The name comes from the WMO/UNESCO Typhoon Committee’s list of names, with Bebinca being contributed by Macau, China and refers to

ROTARY

From page 3

relationships with former Rotarians described above; and those who have already enrolled in the educational institution of their choice are not eligible to apply for the grant.

To apply for the grant, the country or region of the school location has to have a Rotary Club. The application has to have the name of the graduate school the candidate has the acceptance letter from or is to apply to. If you do not have an

acceptance letter as of the interview day, you must submit it to the interviewer by April 15, 2025. A delay may lead to disqualification.

Applicants need to fill out an application form through rid2750.org or any Rotary club near your home or place of work. The Rotary club you sent the application will be the sponsor club.

The deadline for the submission of the application is Sept. 30, 2024. For more information or to send applications from the CNMI, email joannaquino.rcs@gmail.com for more information.

Lopez attends YPL conference on sustainable development in Fiji

Eloise Lopez, a CNMI advocate for sustainable development and ocean conservation, recently participated in the Young Pacific Leaders Regional Workshop held in Fiji.

This event, hosted by the U.S. Embassy in New Zealand, brought together emerging leaders from across the Pacific to discuss and develop strategies for addressing critical regional issues, with a particular focus on sustainable development.

The YPL Regional Workshop serves as a platform for young leaders to exchange ideas, collaborate on innovative solutions, and strengthen their leadership skills. Lopez's participation underscored her commitment to fostering sus-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eloise Lopez makes her presentation during the Young Pacific Leaders Regional Workshop held recently in Fiji.

tainable development in the CNMI and beyond.

Throughout the conference, Lopez engaged with fellow leaders on a variety of topics

including sustainable development goals, ocean conservation, and community empowerment. Her presence at the workshop provided a valuable

opportunity to highlight the unique challenges and opportunities facing the CNMI, as well as to share her expertise in environmental stewardship and educational outreach.

"My continuous passion for environmental and public health issues has taught me that there is so much to do and offer to our community. By addressing climate health and improving our community's well-being, we can make a meaningful impact. What we bring back to our community benefits us all. It's important to bring back positive changes and learn from these experiences," said Lopez.

Lopez is currently serving as the social media coordinator for Sargassum Podcast,

an environmental agency focused on raising awareness about oceanic issues and promoting sustainable practices. In her role, Lopez manages the agency's social media platforms, creating and curating content that highlights important environmental topics and engages with the community to foster a deeper understanding of ocean conservation and sustainability.

Previously, Lopez served as one of the Ocean Team leaders for Project HOPE (Friends of the Marianas Trench), where she played a key role in educating students about ocean conservation and fostering environmental stewardship within the CNMI.

Her participation in the

YPL Regional Workshop aligns with her ongoing efforts to promote ocean conservation and enhance educational opportunities for youth in the CNMI. Her work with various organizations has been instrumental in advancing environmental awareness and stewardship within the region.

The Young Pacific Leaders program continues to support and empower young leaders across the Pacific, fostering collaboration and innovation to address pressing regional challenges. Lopez's involvement in this initiative reflects her dedication to creating positive change and contributing to the future of the CNMI and the broader Pacific community. **(PR)**

DPW opens 2 green waste collection sites

The CNMI Department of Public Works has opened two green waste collection sites for the island of Saipan. Additionally, the Tinian and Rota mayors have announced their designated collection sites on their respective islands.

The Saipan landfill and the transfer station have also resumed normal operations and working hours.

Green waste collection sites (will be open for only two weeks):

■ As Gonno (Pendan St.)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/swH-miD8qRHteizPs8>

■ Kagman (Gabgab Dr.)
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/1wNm8Ls9hJkGfKECA>

Collection sites for Tinian and Rota:

■ Tinian
Household waste: Puntan

Diablo Dumpsite

Green waste: Marpo Valley
Recyclables: San Jose
Transfer Station

■ Rota
Tatachok dumpsite (all forms of trash/debris are accepted here).

For more information regarding the Saipan collection sites, contact the DPW Solid Waste Office at (670) 322-2745. **(PR)**



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-025

S-11 & S-12 SEWER LIFT STATION RELOCATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the relocation of the existing S-11 & S-12 sewer lift station; relocation of wet well; relocation of valve and flow meter stations; installation of new pumps and accessories; and renovation of the existing generator building. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in three hundred sixty-five (365) calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-24-025, S-11 & S-12 Sewer Lift Station Relocation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 1, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided bid forms. Bidders are required to complete all bid forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A bid guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (CHST) on September 10, 2024 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer, at email alley.reyes@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Administrative Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-24-033

WAREHOUSE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of warehouse space for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed warehouse space must comply with DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulations.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set followed by completion of registration with the CUC Procurement & Supply.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-24-033, Warehouse Space Lease for CUC Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements during Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the proposal under this request, or procure our contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Pepe Liwanag, CUC Warehouse Manager, via email at pepe.liwanag@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Students and teachers don't have to die

Teachers, coaches and students don't have to die. Our children don't have to cower in closets. Scared students don't have to text loving messages to their parents, hoping those aren't their last words. School boards don't have to contract with tech companies for instant-alert messaging to warn about school shooters. Sixteen months ago, after a gunman shot five people, killing one, at Northside Hospital Midtown medical office building in Midtown Atlanta on May 3, 2023, we said we don't have to live this way, but we do.

What has changed since then?

Only this: More people have died from senseless gun violence. Everytown for Gun Safety reports that, "in an average year, 1,927 people die by guns" in Georgia. The Gun Violence Archive lists 16 mass shooting events in Georgia this year in which 18 people were killed.

On Wednesday, four people—two 14-year-old students and two teachers—were killed and nine others were wounded in a shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, about 50 miles northeast of Atlanta.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said Wednesday he was "praying for the safety of those in our classrooms."

Yes, the same governor who signed a bill allowing concealed carry throughout the state without background checks or a license is praying for our children to be safe at school.

But prayers are not enough. Not when you're governor.

We know the governor is a reasonable person. He risked his party's ire by pushing back against claims of election interference. We beg him to be reasonable here, too, and to risk support from the gun lobby by pushing aggressively for gun reform.

We don't expect that from U.S. Rep. Mike Collins, a Republican whose district includes Winder. He voted just one month after the Midtown shooting to prevent a ban on bump stocks. He regularly includes weapons in his campaign ads. In a 2021 ad (mysteriously missing now from his website), he claims he's going to "stop the Pelosi agenda" while using a semi-automatic rifle to shoot a box of papers.

But don't worry. He and his wife are "praying for the victims, their families, and all students at Apalachee High School in Barrow County."

In the Gold Dome, where weapons are prohibited, our legislators enacted no meaningful gun reform this year. Instead, they protected the rights of firearms dealers from being identified as firearms dealers by credit card processors, a move for which Lt. Gov. Burt Jones declared he was "thankful."

Left withering on the vine were bills that would have:

- Allowed colleges and universities to decide whether to allow concealed carry of weapons on their campuses.
- Prohibited the possession, manufacture, use or sale of semi-automatic assault rifles, large capacity magazines, large capacity magazine feeding devices in the state.
- Established a voluntary do not sell list for firearms.
- Created a red-flag law that would prohibit people convicted of family violence offenses from owning or possessing firearms.
- Created a study committee on the prevention of mass shooter events.

See **STUDENTS** on Page 7



Harris has an advantage over Trump—Being a woman

Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign is downplaying the fact that, if elected, she'll be the first woman president. On the other hand, her opponent, Donald Trump, has tried repeatedly reminding voters of this fact by leveling gendered insults at her.

Both campaigns are probably taking these approaches for the same reason: Hillary Clinton played the "woman card" against Trump in 2016—and lost. While Clinton won the popular vote by nearly three million people, she didn't secure them in states where she needed the boost the most; Trump defeated her in counties that Barack Obama had won during his election and reelection bids.

The stinging loss and polls since have left us with a damning reality: Some Americans aren't eager to elect a woman. That line of thinking isn't just the case in the U.S. Almost half the population worldwide believes men make better political leaders than women, according to the United Nations Development Program's 2023 Gender Social Norms Index.

But research suggests they're wrong. While women remain underrepresented at the federal, state and local levels of the U.S. government, they have a history of outperforming the men with whom they serve. Harris should feel empowered to play that up, but it's probably not realistic to disabuse voters of deeply rooted misperceptions about women politicians two months before election day.

It's smart for her campaign to keep focusing on why she's the best candidate for the job (she is) rather than her gender. Instead, it's on the media, political pundits, academics and community leaders to talk to the American people about what the data tells us and break down these misconceptions.

In my recently published study, I examined one of the biggest and most reliable data sets to document the efficacy of governors, compiled by political scientists Thad Kousser and Justin Phillips. It showed that women were 1.2 times more likely than their male counterparts to pass the legislation they proposed in their State of the State speeches in 2001 and 2006.

I also found that during the COVID-19 pandemic, states led by women had, on average, lower unemployment rates and fewer excess deaths due to COVID. Women have also been known to outperform their male colleagues in the halls of Congress. A 2011 study found that women get 9% more money earmarked for their districts, and they sponsor and co-sponsor many more bills.

It tracks with what studies have suggested on the international stage, too. If a nation was more diverse, it had higher rates of economic growth when women were at the helm. Countries led by women had better early COVID outcomes. Also, post-conflict societies are more likely to achieve and sustain peace deals when women are part of the process.

Why are women often more successful leaders?

One possible explanation is the "Jill Robinson effect." The concept is based on the idea that Jackie Robinson and other early Black professional baseball players had to perform better than White players to prove to racist team owners and fans that they

By **KARA ALAIMO**

Bloomberg Opinion

Kara Alaimo is an associate professor of communication at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is the author of "Over the Influence: Why Social Media Is Toxic for Women and Girls—and How We Can Take It Back."



had a right to be in the big leagues—and couldn't simply be replaced by White players.

Similarly, women often have to show that they are smarter and more hardworking to prove they deserve to be elected and re-elected—especially since they receive less encouragement from party leaders, political activists and voters to run for office.

The women governors I studied were much more communal, too. In their speeches and tweets, they emphasized cooperation, acknowledged the feelings of others, thanked people and discussed avoiding risks significantly more than their male counterparts. It makes sense that these qualities, which girls and women are socialized to exhibit, would make people more successful in jobs that require convincing individuals to work together to achieve goals.

What's more, organizational psychologist Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic says we often wrongly perceive traits such as overconfidence and narcissism, which men are more likely to exhibit, as indicators of leadership potential. But after people like that are elected, those characteristics can steer them to make bad decisions because they don't, for example, accurately assess risks or respond well to feedback.

Trump's interviews and rallies are the embodiment of this.

Exhibit A: When asked why Black voters should trust him, given his derogatory business practices and statements, he began his answer by insulting the Black journalist who asked it: "Well, first of all, I don't think I've ever been asked a question in such a horrible manner."

Exhibit B: He's also made dangerously false claims about transgender children getting sex changes at public schools and doctors performing late-term abortions happening "after birth." It's the kind of rhetoric that puts doctors, teachers, students, women and families at risk by riling up his base, which has proven to be violent.

The fact that a woman like Harris—who talks passionately about LGBTQ equality, common sense gun control, women's autonomy and voting rights—has to even run against a man like Trump tells us that the US has a long way to go to eradicate gender bias. The most strategic way Harris can help change any uneasiness Americans feel about having a Madam President now is by winning the presidency and giving the public a powerful example of women's competence in office.

Take it from a nonbinary professor—Don't make students state their pronouns on Day One

Like clockwork, as we return to school, our classrooms will fall into gender pronoun controversies. The inclusive impulse on Day One is to have everyone in class introduce themselves and share their pronouns, so nobody is singled out. But many don't think about pronouns. Even for me, as a nonbinary law professor who uses "they," it's never easy. Others must feel even more awkward when prompted to share their preferences. Hounded by the pronoun police and the gender warriors, what are we to do? My answer? Radical empathy.

I practiced by becoming kinder to myself—and others—over recent decades about gender.

It sure is liberating to see "nonbinary" and "they/them" show up everywhere now, even on buttons and earrings. I grew up without this in-between gender. Singular "they" made no sense then to most people. "Pat" drew laughs every week on "Saturday Night Live" because nobody could determine their gender. Nonbinary people were literally a national running joke. As a kid, I felt especially obligated to laugh along.

Happily, much has changed. Most try to speak inclusively. How we got here is very fraught, though, and the rest of the journey is treacherous too. Some make honest mistakes. Others actively resist inclusion. State bans on discussion of gender identity in public schools certainly haven't solved anything; they only complicate the everyday challenge of getting pronouns right.

In whatever settings in which we find ourselves, should we police pronouns? My answer is a hearty no. The process of inclusion matters just as much as the result. To be inclusive, we must bring people in — not shame them into it.

When I start teaching a class, I don't insist on pronoun identification. When I stand before my class with my mannish body in women's clothes, students know the score. But I want to make it clear that my classroom is a safe space where people can identify, or not. Explicitly bringing up preferred pronouns can scare people away from sincere and open conversations about gender. Those will happen organically.

The few people who deliberately misgender deserve vitriol. Many more cisgender people simply don't understand the importance of pronouns. They are still learning. We can expect—even insist on—inclusive language, and correct mistakes. But shaming will not advance social change. As any teacher or parent knows, encouragement drives learning more than criticism and fear.

While teaching, I've accidentally referred to myself as "he" and misgendered students. Mistakes happen. I'm trying, and so are others.

Along that journey, we desperately need nuanced discussions about why gender goes beyond "m" or "f." Even "they" can confuse, and it's been a singular personal pronoun for centuries. When my daughter is speaking to my mother and refers to an individual as "they," my mom wonders what group of people is meant. "They" requires an adjustment in thinking. Not just to the maladroitness of saying "they is."

Though I wore dresses throughout law school in the early 1990s and criticized the "gender binary," I accepted that I was nonbinary only a few years ago. While liberating, it can be hard to be proud of "nonbinary" when the term is itself a negation. It

By **DARREN ROSENBLUM**

Los Angeles Times

Darren Rosenblum is a professor of law at McGill University.



feels like just adding a third checkbox, when we instead need gender to reflect the complexity of human reality.

When people meet me, often I encounter confusion and even fear: Sometimes I later learn that an individual was afraid of offending me, when they wanted to ask me about why and how I live beyond the gender binary. The fear of causing offense may encourage people to try to get it right. Unfortunately, it could also stifle curiosity about gender differences.

When someone calls me "he" but seems sincere, I try not to experience it as a "dysphoric moment." Many people need to hear "they" multiple times to internalize the preference. This was certainly true for me, even though it's my preferred pronoun. It's my own struggle that leads me to insist on patience for others. The gender binary has been taught to us all; I am empathetic to anyone who wants to unlearn it.

Younger people shouldn't have to go through the struggles that plagued me. When pronouns come up, that should be a moment for conversation, exchange and trust-building. People shouldn't refer to me as "they" out of fear, but out of understanding and respect. It is only through spreading this compassion that we can permanently shift how we understand gender. If "Saturday Night Live" can change, so can everyone. In the end, when we get weary, like Otis Redding says, we should all try a little tenderness.

Banish cellphones from school? Maybe. Guns? Never

Cellphones and guns got mixed up together in a curious way last week after the school shooting in Georgia, which left two students and two teachers dead.

In fact, the shooting may represent a setback for growing initiatives by school districts and state legislatures to ban cellphones entirely from classrooms. This effort is based on the theory that cellphones in school are a distraction that undercuts the focus that students need in order to learn.

In general, I support the banning of cellphones in classrooms. My three-and-a-half decades of teaching writing to college freshmen bridged the cultural sea change that occurred sometime early in this century, from the time when no one had a cellphone to the time when everyone has one.

I urged my students not to use their phones during my classes, but I felt a certain ambivalence. I noted the irony of a rule that the faculty imposed on students, when teachers themselves often couldn't resist checking their own phones during faculty meetings, convocations or commencements. Being connected, no matter where you are, is the essential mode of modern life, or so everyone thinks. Even funeral homes publish guidelines for cellphone etiquette.

Still, I tried to keep my students focused on what was happening in class instead of what was happening on their phones. When they pushed back, they always relied on this theme: "What if there's an emergency?"

An emergency? I was dismissive. People had handled emergencies for centuries without cellphones. But if that argument for the banning of cellphones from classrooms ever had much force, it wilts in the face of our modern experience

with school shootings.

As Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance put it recently, school shootings are just "a fact of life," and, thus, I guess, so are emergencies.

Reports of school shootings always include stories of terrified students and teachers hiding in closets and barricaded classrooms, tapping out pleas for help, expressions of love and, too often, their last goodbyes. Who are the hard-hearted teachers, school boards and state legislators who want to take that away from our students?

Of course, Vance got considerable criticism for his flippant "fact of life" comment, but, really, he was just saying out loud what much of our society—well, let's be honest, we're talking about Republicans—has come to accept: We're much more likely to ban cellphones from classrooms than we are to enact legislation that could prevent school shootings, especially those carried out with semiautomatic weapons, whose lethality exceeds anything the Founders who wrote the Second Amendment could have imagined.

Cellphones, school shootings and our infatuation with firearms are entangled in another interesting way: Just days after the Georgia shooting, while they were still asserting that it was too early to politicize the issue, right-wing commentators were saying what they always say, that school shootings in America are not a gun problem, they're a mental health problem.

But there's a well-documented connection between cellphone use and mental health. This finding from the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry is representative: "The constant

with known mental illness from possessing firearms. Though we don't know the motivation for Wednesday's shooting, we do know that the suspect and his father were investigated last year after someone reported a shooting threat made on an online gaming site. The school was notified before the investigation was closed.

According to Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun-reform advocacy group, "In all incidents of targeted school violence—100 percent—there were warning signs that caused others to be concerned."

A majority of Americans also support red flag laws, which would allow family members or law enforcement to petition to remove firearms from people who are believed to be a threat to themselves or others or people who have been convicted of domestic violence. (Red flag laws are especially useful in preventing suicide deaths from firearms.)

Red flag laws, also known as extreme risk protective orders, in conjunction with universal background checks (also supported by a majority of Americans) are strongly associated with reducing firearm homicides, according to the Nelson A. Rockefeller

By **JOHN M. CRISP**

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.



stream of notifications and updates can create a sense of urgency and a fear of missing out, leading to increased anxiety and stress. Furthermore, the excessive use of smartphones can interfere with sleep, which is crucial for mental health."

So, this is the ironic predicament in which we find ourselves: We Americans—children and adults—are deeply attracted to cellphones. Some would say we're addicted. We're also deeply attracted to firearms. Addicted, as well? And while cellphones appear to be bad for our mental health, firearms provide inordinate power to those whose mental health—never, perhaps, very strong to begin with—is undermined by its inability to cope with the world in which we live.

Here's another fact of life: Cellphones aren't good for learning or for mental health. But, students, in the face of our unwillingness to do much of anything about cellphones or firearms, do your best to keep your cellphones close by. You never know when you're going to need them to call for help. Or to say goodbye.

Institute of Government, a public policy think tank.

Secure storage can prevent firearms from ending up in the hands of curious children—or people with violent agendas. The majority of Americans support secure storage laws. (You might be noticing a pattern here. Despite what you might hear from gun extremists, Americans really do support commonsense gun reforms. Most Americans support the Second Amendment and believe that there can be constitutional restrictions on the right to own firearms.)

Georgia's gun laws are among the laxest in the nation. They don't have to be. We believe that Gov. Kemp and our other elected officials value the lives of Georgians. We hope they value those lives enough to champion strong, effective reforms. The governor can immediately call for a committee to study and recommend gun reforms for the legislature to consider—and pass—when it convenes on Jan. 13.

We've said it before, and we will say it again:

We don't have to live this way.

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STUDENTS

From page 6






To their credit, some Republicans have indicated that they would consider improving gun safety laws in Georgia.

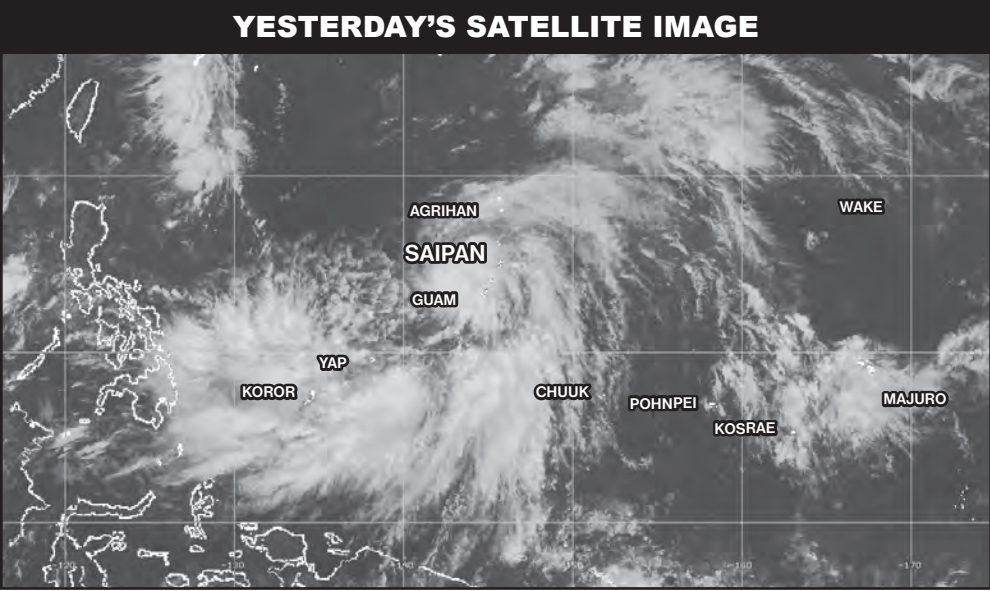
"You can always make improvements," state Sen. Frank Ginn, a Republican who represents part Barrow County, told the AJC's Greg Bluestein after the shooting. "The delicate dance we have to do is make sure we're not infringing on Second Amendment rights. But there are things we can do to encourage commonsense gun ownership."

When will the governor and our legislators put the lives of Georgians ahead of their loyalty to the gun lobby? The majority of Americans, including the majority of gun owners, support commonsense gun reforms that would keep Americans safe from this senseless violence. They know we don't have to live this way.

Among the most popular of those reforms is preventing people

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Windy. Cloudy with frequent locally heavy showers and scattered thunderstorms. South winds 25 to 35 mph.		Breezy. Cloudy with frequent locally heavy showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 20 to 25 mph.		Cloudy with frequent locally heavy showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Cloudy with frequent locally heavy showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Cloudy with frequent locally heavy showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 9:07 AM TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Depression 14W was upgraded to Tropical Storm Bebinca 7AM this morning, after passing over southern Guam earlier in the morning. Bebinca is now about 55 miles west of Guam and is expected to intensify over the next few days, possibly becoming a typhoon Friday,well northwest of the Marianas. Heavy rain and gusty winds will be be slow to decrease due to the monsoon flow east and south of Bebinca. There will be a flooding threat for the Marianas through Thursday night as heavy showers and gusty winds remain near the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Rain/Wind	86° / 77°	
Palau	Cloudy/Wind	84° / 79°	
Yap	Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	89° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	91° / 77°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 80°	
DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	
Friday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM	
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM	
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM	
Monday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM	
DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:27 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:44 AM	2:24 PM
Saturday	-	1:45 AM	3:19 PM
Sunday	-	2:47 AM	4:10 PM
Monday	-	3:50 AM	4:58 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 50°	
Beijing	Fair	80° / 64°	
Hong Kong	Fair	89° / 78°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
London	Mostly Sunny	66° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 76°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	89° / 80°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 41°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	90° / 73°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	94° / 78°	
Paris	Thunderstorms	79° / 57°	
Busan	Cloudy	91° / 78°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	86° / 70°	
Salem	Cloudy	83° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 55°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	95° / 75°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	92° / 81°	
Washington, DC	Clear	85° / 59°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
8:08 AM	Low Tide	0.16	
4:25 PM	High Tide	1.65	
9:07 PM	Low Tide	1.43	
-	-	-	

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.					
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024					
SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Beef Quality Assurance training held on Tinian

TINIAN—The Tinian Cattlemen's Association is partnering with the University of Hawaii to offer a two-day Beef Quality Assurance certification training aimed at enhancing the productivity and sustainability of the island's cattle industry. This workshop, conducted by experts from the University of Hawaii, focuses on improving herd health and cattle productivity through advanced management of soil and pastures, record-keeping, illness prevention, and proper nutrition.

By promoting practices that reduce stress in cattle, ranchers can also improve the overall quality of beef produced, ensuring healthier and more sustainable meat for consumers.

"This certification represents a step forward in promoting Tinian beef as a top-tier product," said Jose Dela Cruz, president of the Tinian Cattlemen's Association. "Our goal is to make Tinian a

recognized name for quality, grass-fed beef, not just locally but globally. Consumers are increasingly looking for healthier, sustainable options, and we are excited to meet that demand."

The BQA training is an activity of a \$400,000 feasibility study grant from the CNMI's CEDA program, which supports the development of the Tinian cattle industry and has laid the groundwork for improving production efficiency, infrastructure and business models.

"Ensuring food security in the CNMI is a priority, and this training brings us closer to that goal," said Glen Fukumoto, a representative from the University of Hawaii involved in the training. "We are equipping local ranchers with the knowledge and tools to produce high-quality beef, reducing reliance on imported goods while strengthening the local economy."

"This training is part of a

nationwide effort to educate beef cattle producers on the process of producing safe, high quality beef cattle on the farm," said Mele Oshiro, UH CTAHR Livestock Extension/Hawaii State BQA coordinator. "As a collaborator on this grant, I am proud to offer this exceptional program to producers in Tinian."

Across the U.S., grass-fed beef is highly sought after due to its health benefits, such as leaner cuts with higher levels of beneficial fatty acids. In addition, consumers appreciate the humane treatment that comes with raising cattle in natural, open pastures. As the saying goes: "You are what you eat," and healthier cattle mean healthier food for the people of the CNMI.

With this certification, Tinian ranchers will be poised to meet growing demand for high-quality, grass-fed beef, both locally and in international markets. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Cattlemen's Association recently held a two-day Beef Quality Assurance workshop on Tinian facilitated by experts from the University of Hawaii.

DLNR rancher survey continues

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Animal Health Division is continuing its comprehensive rancher survey across the CNMI, with data collection expected to conclude by September or October. This survey aims to gather vital information on the number and types of animals raised throughout the CNMI to improve support and resources for local ranchers and the broader community.

DLNR invites all ranchers raising livestock and poultry—whether cattle, goats, chickens, rabbits, or other species—to participate in this survey. The data collected will guide future efforts to enhance livestock health, ensure that needed supplies are accessible, and support sustainable agricultural practices and food security within the CNMI.

"Right now, we depend heavily on imported meats," said Lauren Cabrera of DLNR Animal Health. "This survey will help us better understand the needs of our ranchers so we can support

them in their work and ensure sustainable food sources for our community."

Ranchers have several options to complete the survey:

■ Request a visit: Saipan residents can request a visit from DLNR's Animal Health Team to assist in completing the survey.

■ Phone: Call DLNR Animal Health at (670) 256-3319 to complete the survey by phone.

■ Online: Visit <https://dlnr.cnmi.gov/animal-rancher.html> to complete the survey online.

Tick surveillance underway

The DLNR Animal Health team is conducting tick surveillance by collecting ticks from cattle for testing by an off-island entomologist. "Our hope is to establish a baseline understanding of the types and prevalence of diseases carried by ticks in the CNMI. We recently completed the collection of over 500 ticks from dogs

for testing, and are now focused on collecting ticks from cattle," said Cabrera.

Ranchers can request a visit from the Animal Health staff to assist with tick collection, or they can bring ticks to the Division of Agriculture office in Kagman. Individual test results per cow will not be provided; however, the findings will be made available publicly in a report. This data will be used to help reduce tick-borne illnesses in cattle.

"Anaplasmosis is one tick-borne disease that we know is highly prevalent in our community," Cabrera explained. "This disease is significant to ranchers because it can cause weight loss in cattle, abortions, and even death in livestock."

The survey and tick surveillance project are critical steps in ensuring the health of livestock and the sustainability of food sources in the CNMI. If you have any questions, call DLNR Animal Health at (670) 256-3319 or email cnmianimalhealth@gmail.com. (PR)

JKPL holds 2024 'Back to School Bash'

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted a very successful "Back to School Bash" last Aug. 24. To celebrate our love for learning, we reigned in the new school year with a read aloud at 10:30am followed by Stationery activities, Bingo, Face Painting, a Wii Sports gaming corner, and a Nintendo Switch gaming area.

The children all received a little goodie bag of school supplies, and had the opportunity to win coloring books, crayons, and even a brand-new backpack with a matching lunchbox and pencil case. How cool is that! The event took place in the Children of Our Homeland a.k.a. the "Children's Library." Throughout the event, children giggled, interacted and expressed their love for their community library.

Here at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, we are always coming up with new ideas to engage with our community and intertwine that with learning. If you would like to know more about our upcoming events, feel free to check out our library website, and all of our social media platforms. Better yet, come by and meet the members of your public library. Information can be found below. No social media? No problem! You can always contact Celina Foreman or Sina Palacios, who can be reached at (670) 235-7315. We are happy to answer any questions about the Children's Library activities, events, and schedules.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joetenkiyu public library or visit our website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's hours of operation are



JKPL

Two out of the three Bingo winners of Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's "Back to School Bash" last Aug. 24



JKPL

Parents and children enjoying a game of Mario Kart.

as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday 10am to 6pm, Friday 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Closed for JKPL Austerly on the following Saturdays: Sept. 14 and 28, 2024

How can you help assist with our programs?

We welcome and encourage businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu

Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-256853-OLS-24.

This project was made possible in part by the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (PR)



JKPL

Stationery activities during the JKPL's recent "Back to School Bash."

Nation

TO PUMPED-UP DEMOCRATS:

Harris was everything Biden was not in confronting Trump in debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—To many Democrats, Kamala Harris was everything Joe Biden was not in confronting Donald Trump on the debate stage: forceful, fleet of foot, relentless in going after her opponent.

In a pivot from Biden’s debate meltdown in June, Democrats who gathered in bars,

watch parties and other venues Tuesday night found lots to cheer in her drive to rattle the Republican.

In a race for the White House that surveys say is exceptionally close, with both sides looking for an edge, it was the Democrats who came away more exuberant after the nationally televised debate.

“She prosecuted Donald Trump tonight,” said Alina Taylor, 51, a high school special education teacher who joined hundreds of people on a football field of the historically Black Salem Baptist Church of Abington in a suburb of Philadelphia, where people watched on a 33-foot (10 meter) screen.

As for Trump, she said, “I was appalled” by his performance. “People were laughing at him because he wasn’t making very much sense.”

In Seattle, people gathered at Massive, a queer nightclub where scores watched the debate on a projector set up in front of the club’s large disco ball. The crowd laughed and



AP
Viewers cheer as they watch a debate between Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump at the Angry Elephant Bar and Grill, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in San Antonio.

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cheered when Trump branded Harris a Marxist. More cheers when the debate moderator called out Trump’s false claim that some states legalize the killing of babies after birth.

“He’s getting smoked,” one said.

But in Brentwood, Tennessee, Sarah Frances Morris heard nothing at her watch party to shake her support of Trump.

“I think he beat her on the border,” she said. “I think he also beat her on actually having plans and letting the American people know what those are. And I think that Kamala Harris likes to mention that she has plans for things, but she doesn’t actually ever elaborate on what those plans are.”

Morris conceded she was watching history being made, “because we have our first Black woman running for president.” But, she added, “I don’t think she delivered to get her to that place she needed to be.”

Harris supporter Dushant Puri, 19, a UC Berkeley student, said the vice president took command before the first words were spoken—when she crossed the stage to shake Trump’s hand. “I thought that was pretty significant,” Puri said. “It was their first interaction, and I thought Harris was asserting herself.”

At the same watch party, fellow student Angel Aldaco, 21, said that unlike Biden, Harris “came in with a plan and was more concise.”

Aldaco was struck by one of the night’s oddest moments, when Trump “went on that rampage about eating pets.” That’s when Trump endorsed a baseless conspiracy theory that immigrants were stealing and eating people’s dogs and cats. Harris was incredulous. “That was good,” the student said.

It’s questionable how much viewers learned about what Harris would do as president or whether she won over independents or wavering Republicans. But for some Democrats, despondent if not panicked after Biden’s fumbling debate performance, it was enough to see a Democratic candidate getting seriously under Trump’s skin.

“He is pretty incapable when he is riled up,” said Ikenna Amilo, an accountant at a Democratic watch party in a small concert venue in downtown Portland, Maine.

“When you poke him, he is really reactive and he doesn’t show the temperament you want in a president, so I think Kamala has shown she’s doing a good job.”

Annetta Clark, 50, a Harris supporter from Vallejo, California, watched at a house party hosted by the Oakland Bay Area chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. To her, the second presidential debate was a mighty relief from the one in June.

“I couldn’t stomach the first one, if I’m being honest,” Clark said. “I tried to watch it and it was a little too much. This one I was able to enjoy.” On Trump’s performance: “It was almost like talking to a child with him.” Harris? “Fabulous job.”

Democrat Natasha Salas, 63, of Highland, Indiana, saw the debate from an Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority watch party at a bistro in Markham, Illinois, and welcomed Harris’ call to cool the political temperature—even as the vice president denounced Trump at every turn.

“We all want the same things, Democrats and Republicans,” Salas said. “We are more alike than different. I want to see the country move forward and less divisiveness.”

Life & Style

Kate's soft-focus Insta-ready video marks shift in how royals tell their story

LONDON (AP)—Public displays of affection on a royal video? My, how times have changed!

When the Princess of Wales announced that she had completed chemotherapy treatment in a soft-focus, Insta-ready video, she ventured into realms not previously inhabited by Britain's royal family, traditionally known for the stiff-upper-lip, "never complain, never explain" ethos of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Here was the most popular royal, a public figure usually known simply as Kate, using the tools of social media to share the fact that for all her wealth and privilege, her life had been upended by cancer, just like millions of other people.

But it wasn't just what she said, it was how she said it. Unlike earlier updates on Kate's health, which sounded like factual news reports, this had an entirely different tone. The slickly produced mini-movie released on Monday showed the princess hugging Prince William and their three young children and sharing intimate moments at home with her parents.

There's even a chaste kiss on her cheek.

"It is a real break," said George Gross, a royal historian at King's College London. "But I think people will look at it and won't necessarily realize that. I think they will think: This is just right, this is normal. That's what a family does."

Kate's video marks the royal family's latest experiment

with greater openness since King Charles III assumed the throne in 2022. That has been tested repeatedly this year as both Charles and Kate were treated for serious health problems, then later announced they were undergoing cancer treatment.

For centuries, Britain's royal family withheld news of illness for fear it might weaken their authority. That reticence and secrecy lingered even after they became constitutional figureheads.

The British public wasn't told that King George VI, Charles' grandfather, had lung cancer before his death at the age of 56 in February 1952. The public death announcement said only that the king had "passed peacefully away in his sleep."

King George V died in 1936, after suffering from heart and lung disease. Far from being open about the king's health, palace officials manipulated the timing of his death to gain more favorable coverage. Diary extracts published 50 years later revealed that the king's physician injected the terminally ill monarch with morphine and cocaine to speed his death—partly so it could be announced in the morning newspapers "rather than the less appropriate evening journals."

Charles has made a point of being more open than his mother, Elizabeth, whom Buckingham Palace described as suffering from "mobility issues" in the months before her death.

In January, the palace said



This photo provided by Kensington Palace on Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, shows Kate, Princess of Wales and Prince William with their children Prince George, right, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, left.

Charles would enter a London hospital for treatment for an enlarged prostate. A few weeks later, the king said he would step away from public duties while he received treatment for an undisclosed type of cancer. Those announcements, however, were made in factual releases issued by the palace press office.

But Kate and William, both 42, are of a new generation that is more comfortable sharing personal issues on social media.

Kate's video was shot by William Warr, creative direc-

tor of Detail Films, which says it combines film production techniques and strategic marketing to create "beautiful branded films."

"We exist to help brands tell stories that speak to their audience," the firm says on its website.

In the video, Kate described how difficult the past nine months had been for her family and expressed "relief" at completing her course of treatment.

"Life as you know it can change in an instant, and we have had to find a way to navi-

gate the stormy waters and road unknown," she said in the video, which was shot in a woodland near the family's summer home in Norfolk.

Some see the film as a reflection of a family bonded in a crisis, as many do when facing illness — sharing their thoughts with others.

"It is a love story," former BBC royal correspondent Michael Cole told TalkTV. "You're seeing it there. You're seeing what it means to a family."

Mark Borkowski, a public relations and crisis consultant,

described the film as "a tectonic shift in how the royal family controls its image."

"Kate's journey is profound and deeply personal, but they've learned that emotion can be controlled—and weaponized—in small, potent doses," he said. "By doing this through a polished film, they maintain dignity and control while still appearing relatable."

The fact that the royal family needed new techniques for controlling its story in the age of TikTok and Instagram was underscored after palace officials announced in January that Kate would be hospitalized for abdominal surgery. While the palace released few details about her condition, social media sites were filled with speculation about what was really going on as Kate retreated from public view to focus on her recovery.

When the princess announced that she had cancer two months later, she spoke directly to the public in a somber video in which she asked for "time, space and privacy" while she underwent treatment.

In June, Kate released a video update, saying she had good days and bad days.

Taylor Swift endorses Kamala Harris for president after debate ends

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taylor Swift, one of the music industry's biggest stars, endorsed Kamala Harris for president shortly after the debate ended on Tuesday night.

"I think she is a steady-handed, gifted leader and I believe we can accomplish so much more in this country if we are led by calm and not chaos," Swift wrote in an Ins-

tagram post.

She included a picture of herself holding a cat and signed the message "Childless Cat Lady," a reference to comments made by JD

Vance, Donald Trump's running mate.

Swift has a dedicated following among young women, a key demographic in the November election.

Wife waited days to reveal man's death while overseas

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Guy," and I enjoyed a happy marriage for 30 years, despite the fact that his mother disliked me and did everything she could to undermine our relationship. Guy died suddenly in his sleep last month while we were vacationing in South Asia. I cut the trip short, but between complying with local legalities, arranging for his cremation and his ashes' return to the U.S., and rebooking an international flight, it took me five days to get home.

I decided not to tell anyone that Guy had died until I arrived home. I felt uncomfortable having people know when I was halfway around the world. So, once I was safely home, I immediately notified Guy's family and my own family and ran an obituary in the local newspaper.

His mother is livid with me for not telling her immediately. She sent me a vicious email in which she called me every bad name in the book, even hinting that I may have had something to do with Guy's demise. I'm not going to respond to her, but was I wrong by delaying the announcement? Is there a rule that says his family was entitled to immediate notification?

SUDDEN WIDOW IN THE SOUTH

DEAR WIDOW: Guy's mother is grieving. Her anger may stem from the pain of losing her son. She might have

wanted the opportunity to see him one more time before he was cremated, if that was possible. If she really thinks you might have had something to do with his demise, offer her a copy of his death certificate.

And no, there isn't a rule of etiquette about notifying someone's family about a death, although it usually happens at the time the person dies. That said, his mother should have taken into consideration the fact that you were in shock yourself and alone in a foreign country, which could account for why no one heard from you until you were safely home.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm not exaggerating when I say my son and his wife are slob. Their house is filthy, the outside is neglected and their cars are disgusting. They are both working professionals, and I understand that, but my husband and I are working professionals too, and we always cared for our home. That is the life my kids were used to.

It's difficult to spend time in their home. We no longer stay overnight because the perpetual chaos and dirtiness is stressful. My daughter struggles to be in their home for the same reasons. I am hoping for suggestions to help us maintain a good relationship but also to guide them gently. It's not a healthy environment for their two children, either.

APPALLED MOM IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR MOM: Your son and daughter-in-law are busy, and their priorities are different from yours. If their home is as bad as you say, my concern is for the children who are growing up to think this is normal. If they are earning good money at their jobs, perhaps they could afford hiring someone to do the cleaning and yard work they don't have time for. You might gently suggest it, or offer to treat them once in a while. However, if they aren't receptive, back off.

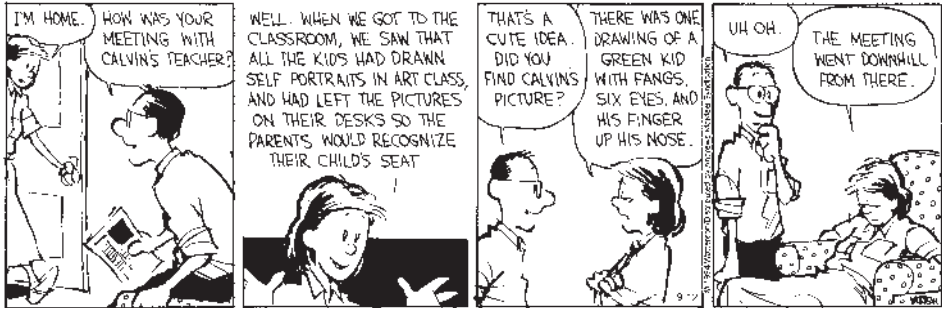
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



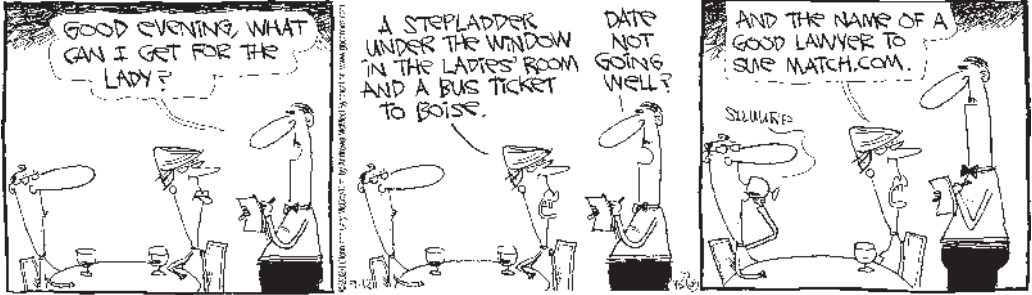
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 44 Viscid 46 Like some editions 50 Obama-care 51 Now, on a memo subj. 52 Nica-ragua neighbor 56 Pearl Harbor site 57 Author Morrison 58 Boxer Laila 59 Vail gear 60 Region 61 "Me time" resort

DOWN 1 Standard 2 Greek vowel

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Potter, 29; Emmy Rossum, 38; Jennifer Hudson, 43; Benjamin McKenzie, 46.

Happy Birthday: Share your thoughts and intentions with those you trust, and make plans to elevate your lifestyle and meaningful relationships. Pay attention to what others like and share what brings you joy. A united front will make dealing with others more accessible and less stressful. Use your imagination and adjust what isn't working for you, and you'll be happy and content. Your numbers are 7, 15, 27, 30, 39, 42, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An emotional confrontation won't help you get what you want. Rethink your actions and put your energy into something constructive, like overtime at work or making physical changes at home to make life easier. Apply damage control when dealing with relationships; avoid being critical or unwilling to compromise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Change begins with you. Stop dreaming and start doing what makes you happy. Don't be afraid to voice your opinion. Reach out to like-minded people and generate a buzz, encouraging others to join your bandwagon. Be a teacher, a guide and a motivator, and make a difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's up to you to make things happen. Target what's required and use your skills, experience and connections to reach your target. Express yourself by acting. What you do will speak volumes about who you are and your capabilities. Don't allow anyone to lead you astray.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the initiative and use your energy wisely. Refuse to get involved in emotional nonsense that leaves everyone upset and nothing resolved. Use your insight and skills to recognize what's available and how to make the most of

what you've got. Be proactive, positive and patient.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make things cozy, entertaining and welcoming at home for the ones you love. Pay attention to your needs and invest time in looking and feeling your best. Reach out to people and organizations that offer insight into healthy living. Make romance a priority.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a good look around you, assess your surroundings and situation, and address issues that need adjusting. Don't wait for someone to outmaneuver you. It's up to you to set a path that encourages your success. Simplicity and a minimalist attitude will result in options and opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Abide by the rules, but refrain from scrimping when obtaining the knowledge and experience you require to reach your goal. A physical change that helps you stand out is favored and will encourage positive responses and opportunities that can help you promote your agenda. Live, learn and love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A passionate show of skill and experience will help you rise to the top. Network, participate and become a leader. Differentiate yourself from the crowd by exerting confidence and wisdom along with innovative solutions and suggestions, and something good will transpire. Don't give up; take charge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to detail; don't skip a beat or give anyone a chance to push you aside. Distance yourself from scammers and those offering hype at an outrageous price. Focus on building opportunities, using your skills and acquiring experience. Start small, and growth will follow.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can show passion, but don't promise anything you cannot deliver. Communication, research and budgeting will help you make better choices. Connect with people who share your beliefs and are trying to reach similar life goals. Make friendships and expanding your mind and interests a priority.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend more time at home or nurturing what's important to you. Invest in yourself and your future, and maintain a lifestyle that makes you feel comfortable. A healthy routine will also lead to compliments and opportunities to expand your interests and circle of friends. Romance is favored.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stay on top of facts and figures to ensure no one takes advantage of you. Put your energy into home improvements and make sure you are on the same page as partners or those affected by the choices you create. Honesty and integrity will make your life easier.

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful and dedicated. You are patient and detailed.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7	5		1		6	
		1	3	2		5
5	7		8		4	
			6		2	
2	4		8	3		
		2		6		
5	4			7		3
	2	7	3			1
		8	5		7	6

Difficulty: ★★★

9/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	4	5	2	6	1	8	3	9
6	8	9	7	5	3	2	4	1
1	3	2	8	9	4	6	5	7
4	6	3	1	2	5	7	9	8
9	2	8	3	4	7	1	6	5
5	7	1	6	8	9	4	2	3
3	5	6	4	7	8	9	1	2
8	9	4	5	1	2	3	7	6
2	1	7	9	3	6	5	8	4

Difficulty: ★★★

9/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME

Solution: 10 letters

S	R	P	L	E	T	I	V	N	I	T	S	O	P	P
N	E	E	L	A	N	O	I	S	S	E	F	O	R	P
O	F	P	P	A	O	U	E	B	N	A	Y	O	O	R
I	L	R	A	O	N	G	W	O	V	D	B	P	P	O
T	E	M	E	P	R	I	O	U	L	I	C	O	T	
A	C	D	E	S	E	T	R	T	E	N	A	O	S	N
D	T	E	G	E	P	R	S	M	I	L	C	N	A	E
N	H	S	U	O	Y	O	S	O	L	S	C	N	L	M
E	O	I	T	T	O	N	P	L	S	E	E	I	E	
M	U	G	D	S	L	N	L	S	E	U	P	C	O	N
M	G	N	E	V	S	U	E	P	E	C	T	T	N	T
O	H	T	I	P	S	A	S	M	C	T	I	N	I	
C	T	N	S	L	I	A	M	E	M	E	I	I	O	O
E	G	A	R	U	O	C	N	E	R	O	H	O	V	N
R	K	C	A	B	D	E	E	F	L	A	C	O	V	E

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9/12

Accept, Assist, Call, Comment, Connect, Design, Emails, Employee, Encourage, Favor, Feedback, Goal, Guide, Hint, Invite, Mention, Mentor, Opinion, Option, Paper, Perspective, Plan, Post, Problem Solving, Professional, Proposal, Recommendation, Reflect, Report, Response, Result, Solution, Study, Thought, Tips, View, Vocal, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Motivating

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Rookie Montero throws Tigers' first individual shutout in 3 seasons

DETROIT (AP)—Rookie Keider Montero pitched Detroit's first individual shutout in three seasons and the Tigers beat the Colorado Rockies 11-0 Tuesday night.

Montero (5-6) was making his 14th major league start and became the first Tigers pitcher with nine shutout innings since Spencer Turnbull's no-hitter in Seattle on May 18, 2021. The 24-year-old right-hander needed 96 pitchers while facing the minimum 27 batters. He allowed three singles and struck out five without walking a batter.

All of Colorado's singles—Ryan McMahon in the second, Ezequiel Tovar in the seventh and Aaron Schunk in the eighth—were followed by double plays by the Tigers' infield.

Parker Meadows hit a solo homer in the first inning, his seventh, and drove in three runs.

Rockies starter Bradley Blalock (1-3) allowed five runs on five hits with five walks in four innings.

PIRATES 6, MARLINS 4 PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen hit a three-run blast to reach the 20-homer plateau for the 10th time in his career and Pittsburgh beat Miami.

The 37-year-old designated hitter turned on a fastball from Miami's Adam Oller (1-3) with two on and two out in the fifth inning and sent it into the first row of bleachers in left field to give Pittsburgh a five-run lead.

McCutchen has had eight of his 20-homer seasons with Pittsburgh, the second-most in franchise history behind Hall of Famer Willie Stargell.

Isaiah Kiner-Falefa and Bryan Reynolds had two hits apiece for the Pirates, who have won three straight. Joey Wentz (1-2) earned the victory. Aroldis Chapman survived a rocky ninth to earn his eighth save on a night the Pirates used six relievers behind opener Carmen Mlodzinski.

Jhonny Pereda had three hits for Miami. Kyle Stowers added a pair of doubles for the Marlins.

BRAVES 12, NATIONALS 0 WASHINGTON (AP)—Michael Harris II hit two of Atlanta's four home runs and the Braves had 15 hits in a rout of Washington, despite losing starter Reynaldo López to a right shoulder injury after one inning.

López left with right shoulder tightness after throwing 25 pitches, 16 for strikes. His fastball velocity—usually 96 mph—was down to the 92-94 mph range. He and three re-



Detroit Tigers' Keider Montero reacts after striking out Colorado Rockies' Jordan Beck to record a complete-game three-hitter in a win in a baseball game, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in Detroit.

lievers limited the Nationals—losers of seven of their last 10 games—to three hits.

It was the fourth multi-homer game of Harris' career. Sean Murphy hit a two-run shot and Orlando Arcia had solo homer one night after the Braves mustered only a pair singles by Matt Olson in a 1-0 loss to the Cincinnati Reds.

Atlanta hit three doubles in the four-run third, then added three runs in the next frame to chase Nationals left-handed starter MacKenzie Gore and move within one-half game of the idle Mets for the final NL wild card.

PHILLIES 9, RAYS 4 PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kyle Schwarber set an MLB record with his 14th leadoff homer of the season before leaving due to injury, and pinch-hitter Cal Stevenson hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth inning as Philadelphia beat Tampa Bay.

Trea Turner hit two, two-run homers and Bryce Harper added four hits as the Phillies (87-58) moved 29 games over .500, matching a season high.

Schwarber set the single-season leadoff homer record on the second pitch he saw from Taj Bradley, sending the ball 437 feet to center field for a 1-0 lead and moving past Alfonso Soriano, who had 13 leadoff homers with the New York Yankees in 2003. The Phillies designated hitter left the game in the fourth inning due to left elbow discomfort after reaching on a walk in the third and appearing to get hurt diving back into first base on a pickoff try.

Schwarber's 35th homer of the season was the 45th leadoff homer of his career, with 32 coming since joining the Phillies in 2022.

ROYALS 5, YANKEES 0

NEW YORK (AP)—Seth Lugo struck out 10 in seven masterful innings and Salvador Perez hit two run-scoring singles to reach 100 RBIs for the second time as Kansas City beat New York.

Tommy Pham homered and Bobby Witt Jr. had an RBI single for the Royals, who began the night trailing first-place Cleveland by 3 1/2 games in the AL Central. They held a 2 1/2-game edge over Minnesota for the second AL wild card.

New York came in 1 1/2 games ahead of second-place Baltimore atop the AL East.

BLUE JAYS 6, METS 2 TORONTO (AP)—Davis Schneider hit a two-run triple, Chris Bassitt struck out eight against his former team and Toronto beat the New York Mets.

The Mets lost for the second time in 12 games and fell into a tie with Atlanta for the final National League wild card. The Braves beat Washington 12-0 on Tuesday.

Ernie Clement scored three runs and Leo Jiménez reached base three times and drove in a run as the Blue Jays won for the second time in eight September games.

Bassitt (10-13) allowed one run and five hits in six innings. He's 2-0 in two career starts against the Mets, his team in 2022.

TWINS 10, ANGELS 5 MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kyle Farmer hit a three-run home run in the second inning to provide a well-timed jolt for a sputtering lineup, and Matt Wallner and Carlos Santana also went deep for Minnesota in a victory over the Los Angeles.

Pablo López (15-8) won his fourth straight start on the strength of 10 strikeouts over seven innings without an earned

run, withstanding a three-run homer by Zach Neto in the fifth that cut the lead to 6-4.

The Twins (77-68), who had lost 15 of their previous 21 games, preserved a three-game edge with 17 games to go in the chase for the last of three AL wild-card spots in the playoffs that has tightened with their recent slide. Boston, Detroit and Seattle, the closest competitors, all began the night at 73-71.

ORIOLES 5, RED SOX 3 BOSTON (AP)—Cedric Mullins hit two homers and drove in three runs, Albert Suárez gave up one run and struck out a career-best eight over six innings and Baltimore held off Boston.

Adley Rutschman added a two-run single for the Orioles, who won for the only the second time in six games as they attempt to catch the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

Triston Casas and Masataka Yoshida each had an RBI double for Boston, which has lost seven of its last 11 in its pursuit of Minnesota for the AL's third wild-card spot.

Boston's Tyler O'Neill went 0 for 3 with three strikeouts after hitting two homers in a victory on Monday.

GUARDIANS 5, WHITE SOX 0 CHICAGO (AP)—Lane Thomas hit a three-run homer and Cleveland's bullpen was terrific once again, helping the Guardians beat Chicago White Sox after Ben Lively departed with a leg injury.

At 33-113, the White Sox are closing in on the post-1900 record for losses—120 by the 1962 New York Mets in their inaugural season.

Thomas also doubled and scored on Kyle Manzardo's second-inning single. With

two on and one out in the sixth, he drove Gus Varland's second pitch deep to left-center for his third homer since he was acquired from Washington on July 29.

Six Cleveland relievers combined for seven innings of four-hit ball after Lively departed with a bruised right thigh. Pedro Avila (6-1) got six outs for the win.

REDS 3, CARDINALS 0 ST. LOUIS (AP)—TJ Friedl had a two-run single and scored Cincinnati's other run, all in the fifth inning, as the Reds beat St. Louis.

The Reds' Elly De La Cruz stole two bases after walking in the first inning, raising his MLB-leading total to 64 stolen bases. He was thrown out in the third inning when the Cardinals pitched out.

Rhett Lowder (1-1) earned his first win in his third big-league appearance. The 22-year-old right-hander, who was a first-round pick in the 2023 draft, worked five scoreless inning and finished with three strikeouts and no walks.

ATHLETICS 4, ASTROS 3, 12 INNINGS HOUSTON (AP)—Zack Gelof homered early, Max Schuemann and Nick Allen drove in runs with 12th-inning bunts and Oakland beat Houston.

With the score 2-2, Daz Cameron's bunt single to start the 12th sent Gelof, the automatic runner, to third.

Schuemann then bunted to Héctor Neris (9-5), who spiked his throw home as Gelof scored on the sacrifice. Cameron to move to third on the error as the ball rolled in the field.

With runners at the corners, Allen bunted into a forceout that scored Cameron for a 4-2 lead.

Jose Altuve hit an RBI double leading off the bottom half off Hogan Harris (4-3), who retired the next three batters.

Bryan Abreu struck out the side in the 11th for Houston.

BREWERS 3, GIANTS 2 SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—William Contreras had three hits and drove in a run, Garrett Mitchell hit a home run and Milwaukee beat San Francisco.

Aaron Civale (6-8) allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings, pitching well against the Giants after throwing seven shutout innings against them two weeks ago and improving to 4-2 since being traded to the Brewers from the Rays in July.

The NL Central-leading Brewers, who entered the game having lost four of five, are now 4 1/2 games ahead of the Cubs in the division. The Giants fell eight games back

of the third NL wild card.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, RANGERS 0 PHOENIX (AP)—Christian Walker hit a pair of homers, Zac Gallen threw five dominant innings and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Texas Rangers 6-0 on Tuesday night.

Arizona is a half-game behind San Diego for the top NL wild card, and the Braves and Mets are two games back of the Diamondbacks and tied for the last playoff position.

Texas is seven games back of the last AL wild card with 17 games left and need to overcome five teams.

Joc Pederson and Walker hit back-to-back solo homers in the first to give the D-backs a 2-0 lead. Walker went deep again in third—going opposite field for the second straight time—to put Arizona up 4-0.

Walker has 25 homers after returning Sept. 3 from an oblique injury.

PADRES 7, MARINERS 3 SEATTLE (AP)—Manny Machado hit a two-run homer to become San Diego's career home runs leader, Fernando Tatis Jr. added a three-run drive and the Padres slugged past Seattle.

Machado's 164th homer in a Padres uniform was a line drive to center field off George Kirby in the sixth inning and gave San Diego a 5-2 lead.

Yu Darvish threw five innings in his second start since rejoining the Padres. Darvish (5-3) allowed solo home runs to Cal Raleigh and Luke Raley but pitched out of a jam in the third inning after Seattle put the first two runners on. Darvish struck out Julio Rodríguez and Randy Arozarena both looking sandwiched around fly out from Raleigh.

Darvish allowed seven hits, struck out five and walked none.

CUBS 6, DODGERS 3 LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Cubs rallied for the tying and go-ahead runs in a five-run eighth inning, when Los Angeles committed three errors in a loss to Chicago that featured a matchup of Japanese star pitchers Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Shota Imanaga.

The NL West-leading Dodgers blew a 3-1 lead and lost to the Cubs for the second straight night, assuring their first series loss since Aug. 5-7 against visiting Philadelphia. Los Angeles' division lead was cut to 4 1/2 games over second-place San Diego.

Chicago is four games back of Atlanta and the New York Mets, who are tied for the last NL wild card.

Hill's traffic stop revives discussion about realities faced by Black drivers



MIAMI (AP)—After his traffic stop in Miami on Sunday, Tyreek Hill talked about “the talk”—

instructions passed down in Black families for generations about what to do when pulled over by police.

Keep your hands in sight, preferably on the steering wheel. Avoid any sudden movements. Don't talk back to the officer. And above all, follow instructions without error or delay.

Heeding that advice in the heat of the moment can be hard, as Hill's own experience showed when the star wide receiver for the Miami Dolphins was stopped for speeding and reckless driving before the team's first game of the season.

His interaction with police—captured in a now-viral cellphone video and body camera footage—escalated and is yet again prompting a larger discussion about the realities of “driving while Black.” According to a national law enforcement survey, traffic stops of Black drivers are more likely to include the threat or use of force.

Body camera video shows Hill rolled down the driver's side window and handed his license to a Miami-Dade County officer knocking on the window. Hill then told the officer repeatedly to stop knocking, before he rolled the darkly tinted window back up.

After a back and forth about the window, the body camera video shows an officer pulled Hill out of his car by his arm and head and then forced him face first onto the ground on a street outside the team's stadium.



AP
Miami Dolphins wide receiver Tyreek Hill speaks during an NFL football postgame news conference, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

The officers handcuffed Hill and one put a knee in the middle of his back.

“It happened so fast that it caught me off guard,” Hill said in a postgame interview on Sunday. Later, he said he was “embarrassed” and “shell-shocked” by the situation.

“If I wasn't Tyreek Hill”

For many, Hill's encounter with police drives home a reality that Black men in particular disproportionately experience what he did. Even if the encounter doesn't end in tragedy, it confirms an ongoing need for the talk.

Hill wondered what would have happened if he wasn't a celebrity.

“If I wasn't Tyreek Hill, worst-case scenario, we would have had a different article—‘Tyreek Hill got shot in front of Hard Rock Stadium.’ That's worst-case scenario,” he said in a CNN on Monday.

Fact of life for Black

Americans

Other Black Dolphins players said they were used to seeing the kind of police conduct that Hill experienced.

“I won't say it was scary. It's something I'm used to seeing,” linebacker David Long Jr. said.

Dolphins safety Jevon Holland said it was “not unnatural” to see police conduct the traffic stop that way — including what the footage appeared to show: one officer striking his handcuffed teammate. One of at least three officers involved in detaining Hill was placed on leave pending an internal investigation.

The Miami-Dade Police Department's top officer, Director Stephanie Daniels, told the Miami Herald on Monday that the decision to place the officer on leave came after a review of the body camera footage, which she later said would not normally be released during an ongoing investigation but

was, in this case, to maintain “public trust.”

“Excessive force on a Black man, that's not uncommon. It's a very common thing in America,” Holland said. “So I think that needs to be addressed at a countrywide level.”

Dolphins tight end Jonnu Smith, who was at the scene to support Hill, echoed Holland's sentiments.

“Obviously we all see the police brutality that goes on in this country, and when you see your teammate possibly being part of that, you're doing everything in your power to help him,” he said.

Doing exactly as you're told is no guarantee against discrimination or excessive use of force, said Andrew Grant-Thomas, co-founder of EmbraceRace, a nonprofit that provides resources for parents and educators.

Furthermore, he said, perfectly, subserviently obeying law-enforcement commands

“shouldn't be the standard for any of us in dealing with police,” said Grant-Thomas, who is Black. “There are things like rights.”

Treading carefully around police

Still, it often feels like white parents can talk to their children about how to maintain their rights with the police, he said, but for Black kids, it's not about rights but “about survival.”

According to a Bureau of Justice Statistics' special report released in 2022, Black people and Hispanic people were more likely than white people to experience the threat or use of force in 2020. Black people were also more likely to be shouted at by police than white people.

Black drivers were more likely than white drivers to experience no enforcement action during their most recent traffic stop, according to the report. But among those who did experience an enforcement action, white drivers were more likely to be let off with a warning than drivers of any other race or Hispanic origin.

Just like Hill, Grant-Thomas was taught at a young age to tread carefully when it comes to police.

“I'm not going to talk back, I'm going to put my hands at 10 and two o'clock and all those things because the reality is that this person can kill me. It doesn't matter then whether my rights were observed,” he said.

Grant-Thomas also noticed how quickly people used Hill's past allegations of violence to justify any excessive use of force.

“What's astonishing to me—although it shouldn't be—is how many people immediately began to speculate in ways that were really in terms that were unfavorable to him,” Grant-Thomas said. “Because of who he was or who they supposed him to be, that for many people seems to justify the police treatment in a way that actually doesn't make any sense.”

Hill's end-zone victory dance on Sunday that included mimicking being cuffed made many people feel validated in their opinion that the wide receiver had been wronged.

Police and NFL players

Many Black NFL players have long used their platforms, on and off the field, to draw attention to racial disparities in law enforcement.

In 2014, five St. Louis Rams players stood with their arms raised in an apparent show of solidarity with protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, before trotting onto the field for pregame introductions. The “hands up, don't shoot” gesture referred to a debunked claim that Michael Brown, a Black teenager, had his hands raised in surrender when he was shot by a white officer.

And perhaps the most famous on-field anti-brutality gesture was sparked by former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who took a knee during the national anthem, in the wake of fatal police shootings in 2016.

“Unless there's a conversation actually about this, if it's simply floating out there and people are talking in their echo chambers,” Grant-Thomas said. “I think the point really will have been lost.”

Players blame football fields, themselves as they slip and slide through the NFL's opening weekend

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

So many players had trouble with their footing on the NFL's opening weekend.

It began with Isaiah Likely's touchdown-negating toe-tap at the back of the end zone at Arrowhead Stadium and continued throughout a waxy weekend that featured the Eagles and Packers slipping and sliding their way around Sao Paulo's Corinthians Arena soccer pitch as the league expanded its global footprint with its debut in Latin America's largest country.

Even games stateside also had their share of missteps, even those played indoors such as the one at Ford Field, where the Lions blamed themselves and not the turf after stumbling their way to an overtime win against the Rams.

The Lions might have won it in regulation if not for a trio of slip-ups on their final drive that ended

with a field goal.

Jared Goff sailed a would-be touchdown throw over the head of Jahmyr Gibbs, who stumbled as he ran open in the Rams' secondary with about a minute remaining. Amon-Ra St. Brown lost his footing on an incomplete two plays later and Kalif Raymond fell down on a third down misfire before Jake Bates' field goal tied it.

After the Lions found their footing in overtime for a 26-20 win, Detroit wide receiver Jameson Williams suggested the issue wasn't a slippery surface but the rusty Lions themselves.

Practicing on grass and with so many vets sitting out the preseason, it takes some time to get reacclimated to the artificial grass, Williams said.

The problem ran deeper in Brazil, where the converted soccer field was covered with divots by halftime of Philadelphia's 34-29 win over Green Bay.

Saquon Barkley, who otherwise shined in his Eagles debut, slipped for a 5-yard loss on his first carry for Philadelphia.

Packers receiver Christian Watson missed out on a touchdown catch when he slipped in the end zone and Green Bay running back Emanuel Wilson fell on the seat of his pants as he tried to cut after a 14-yard gain.

When Jordan Love got hurt in his first game since signing a \$220 million contract extension, newly acquired backup Malik Willis came in for one final play but slipped in the pocket and was sacked by Zack Baun before he could even heave a desperation pass.

With players on both sides of the ball falling on just about every play, former NFL star J.J. Watt chimed in with a post on social media that said: “Soccer fields are made for speed and agility. Smaller bodies gliding across the surface with mini-

mal contact. They are not properly conditioned to have the size & strength of NFL players cutting, pushing and driving all game on them. This is common at international games.”

In Kansas City, where Taylor Swift and other Chiefs fans are hoping for a Super Bowl three-peat, they watched the opener come down to a different kind of footing issue.

Just as Ravens coach John Harbaugh was calling for a 2-point attempt to try to beat the back-to-back champs, video clearly showed Likely's right big toe on the white endline—the tight end was wearing black cleats — nullifying his touchdown with no time left and leaving the Chiefs 27-20 victors in the 2024 NFL kickoff.

Patrick Mahomes had a friendly message for Likely afterward.

“You have to wear white cleats next time,” Mahomes cracked.

Had Likely worn white shoes as his teammate Roquan Smith did, the TV cameras almost certainly would have still shown he was on the endline, but his black cleats gave him no chance of getting away with it at all.

Tongue-in-cheek or not, it's actually sound advice from Mahomes, suggested Broncos kicker Wil Lutz, who was on the wrong end of something similar eight years ago in New Orleans.

While the league allows black cleats or even cleats featuring a team color, wearing white shoes “does make a difference because it's got to be conclusive evidence for it to be overturned, or for it to be confirmed, one of the two,” said Lutz. “If you're wearing black they can clearly see it.”

It's just like players wearing white gloves can get away with holding a white jersey easier than they can if they're wearing dark colored gloves, Lutz noted.

Lutz had an up-close view the last time cleat color played such a prominent role in the final score. It was Nov. 10, 2016, in a game between his current team, the Broncos, and his former team, the Saints.

New Orleans had just tied the game late, but Lutz's extra point attempt was blocked by Justin Simmons and scooped up by Will Parks, who raced 84 yards down the Saints' sideline for the first game-winning defensive 2-point conversion in NFL history.

The Saints swore he stepped out of bounds at about the 35-yard line, but the play was upheld as officials couldn't verify the claim because his white cleats blended in with the white sideline and no camera angles were available to prove otherwise.

Games can come down to the strangest of things.

Color choice, a slip here, a trip there.

Even a big toe.

CNMI, Palau sign MOU To co-promote marathons



In a bid to attract more athletes and attention to certified marathons in Micronesia, the Marianas and Palau are joining forces to co-promote each other's annual marathons.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, Palau Visitors Authority, and Palau Athletics have signed an MOU this month to promote, share information, and encourage participation in the Belau Omal Marathon—just held on Sept. 1 in Koror, Palau—and Saipan

Marathon—slated for March 9, 2025, in the Marianas.

“This MOU between the MVA, Palau Athletics, and PVA is another initiative in promoting Micronesia to the world alongside our brothers and sisters from the region,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “Both Belau Omal Marathon and Saipan Marathon are certified courses highlighting the natural beauty of our destinations, the friendliness of our people, and our ability to deliver a professional race to runners from throughout the world. Congratulations to Palau on their successful

race this month, and we look forward to growing the partnership.”

The areas of cooperation include each party promoting the other's marathon through websites, social media, newsletters, and event materials; sharing best practices and strategies for event planning and management; and encouraging participation in the partner marathon, fostering cultural exchange and mutual support. Additionally, the first marathon finisher in each race will receive a complimentary entry into the sister marathon.

Saipan Marathon and Belau Omal



Palau Athletics President Uchel Tmetuchi, left, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion sign an MOU on Sept. 1, 2024, in Koror, Palau, for mutual support and promotion of Belau Omal Marathon in Palau and Saipan Marathon in the Marianas. The MOU was also signed by managing director Kadoi Ruloked of Palau Visitors Authority.



Palau Athletics Secretary General Peoria Koshiba, second right, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, right, at the Belau Omal Marathon in Palau on Sept. 1, 2024, in Koror, Palau. The MVA, Palau Athletics, and Palau Visitors signed an MOU this month for mutual support and promotion of Belau Omal Marathon and Saipan Marathon in the Marianas. From left, MVA Community Projects coordinator Jack Aranda, MVA Community projects manager Martin Duenas, Koshiba, and Concepcion.

NMI

From page 16

players—Leo Takahashi, Markus Toves, Anthony Bergancia, Anthony Austria, Ariel Narvaez Jr., Leland Deleon Guerrero, Cody Shimizu, Jonne Navarro, Daniell Pablo, Edward Arriola III, Nolan Ngewakl, Moshe Sikkell, Paul Lizama, Tyler Omelau, Mark Chavez, Monaco Claridades, Wataru Kadokura, Andrew Sablan, Zhi Xiang Lin, Isaiah Hossain, Casey Chambers, Akoni Matsumoto, and Dev Bachani.

They will be joined by head coach Konomi Suzuki; assistant coach Jer-shwin Angeles; goalkeeper coach Ronnel Ocanada; team manager Mikky Vargas; team analyst Jireh Yobech; and team doctor/physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa.

In attendance during the send-off were Northern Marianas Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, NMIFA Executive Committee

member Catherine Attao-Toves, and family and friends of the team.

Tan gave a speech in the beginning of the ceremony and said among many things, that the NMI has been put in a very difficult group. But even with that, he said, “I think the coaches and hopefully the players are prepared to face very, very tough competition... Some of the other country's players are already men.”

He then said even with the tough competition ahead, it will be a learning experience and will allow NMI players to grow and develop in the sport.

“I'm sure that you guys have been doing your best to prepare for this important competition—rain or shine. I'm very happy that we're given this opportunity by AFC to participate in this very high-level competition. But we have to acknowledge that every game is very tough. You're going to do your best and it's really about learning,” he said.

For team captain Pablo, he said, “We just want to say thank you to everyone... We spent a lot of hours on

the field training and we experienced a lot in the Marianas Cup and in the training camps early this year. We just want to thank everyone for

making it happen... we just want to represent our island really well so we'll work hard and try our very best out there.”



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan makes his remarks during the NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team sendoff ceremony last Tuesday at the NMSA conference room in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium before their trip to Salmiya, Kuwait for the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers.

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markers, Torres scored 13, and Renren Gaviola and Daryll Foronda put up twin 10 points.

In the other game that day, SMJ beat Alsa Baso, 73-69.

In the semi open standings, Alliana's lead with their two wins; Swishas and One Pacific are at one win each; Lakay and SMJ are at 1-1; Unity Trade and

Umi Shooters have one loss each; while Alsa Baso are at two losses.

Alliana's 99 – Singca 25, Jude Tengco 18, Meriales 12, Demonte-verde 10, Rodriguez 9, Bondad 8, Moises 6, Bayna 5, Broncano 4, Jomar Tengco 2.

Lakay 69 – Pastrana 29, Torres 13, Gaviola 10, Foronda 10, Lazatin 4, Brillo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-17, 35-29, 65-45, 99-69.

18 or younger on March 5, 2025, may register for 10K or 5K for \$35 through Oct. 31, 2024. However, full marathon participants must be age 16 or older. Half marathon participants must be age 14 or older.

For more information, visit <https://raceroster.com> or www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects coordinator Ed Diaz at (670) 664-3210 or communityprojects@mymarianas.com. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	83	62	.572	—
Baltimore	83	63	.568	1/2
Boston	73	72	.503	10
Tampa Bay	71	74	.490	12
Toronto	69	77	.473	14 1/2

Central Division				
Cleveland	83	62	.572	—
Kansas City	80	66	.548	3 1/2
Minnesota	77	68	.531	6
Detroit	74	71	.510	9
Chicago	33	113	.226	50 1/2

West Division				
Houston	77	67	.535	—
Seattle	73	72	.503	4 1/2
Texas	70	75	.483	7 1/2
Oakland	63	82	.434	14 1/2
Los Angeles	60	85	.414	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	87	58	.600	—
Atlanta	79	66	.545	8
New York	79	66	.545	8
Washington	64	80	.444	22 1/2
Miami	54	91	.372	33

Central Division				
Milwaukee	83	61	.576	—
Chicago	75	70	.517	8 1/2
St. Louis	72	72	.500	11
Cincinnati	71	75	.486	13
Pittsburgh	69	76	.476	14 1/2

West Division				
Los Angeles	86	59	.593	—
San Diego	82	64	.562	4 1/2
Arizona	81	64	.559	5
San Francisco	71	74	.490	15
Colorado	54	91	.372	32

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTOS

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81), while Edgar Abalos came third with his net 74 following a line of 45-41 and gross 86.

A total of 18 Fil-Taga Golfers Association members took part in the club's August tournament and the rest are the following with their net scores

in parenthesis—Mike Cruz (74), Jess Yumul (74), Adony Matutino (75), William Retardo (75), Ruben Aven-dano (76), Das Krishnan (76), Felix Ano (77), Rene Batallones (77), Emil Padernal (78), Henry Bautista (79), Albert Pajarillaga (79), Freddie Cataluna (80), Romy Cayetano (80), and Juhn Cayetano (90).

The par 3 winners were Retardo, Krishnan, Abalos, and Padernal.



**Rookie Montero
throws Tigers'
first individual
shutout in 3
seasons**
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**CNMI, Palau
sign MOU To
co-promote
marathons**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI U20 team off to Kuwait for AFC qualifier

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team was sent off with good luck and well wishes last Tuesday at the NMSA conference room in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium for their trip to Salmiya, Kuwait.



LEIGH GASES

The NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team captain Daniell Pablo speaks to the crowd during their sendoff ceremony last Tuesday at the NMSA conference room in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium before their trip to Salmiya, Kuwait for the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers.



The team will compete in the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers from Sept. 21 to Sept. 29, 2024.

There are 10 groups in the tournament, with the NMI in Group C.

The team will have four matches and the first team they will go up against is the host team Kuwait on Saturday, Sept. 22. They will then square off against the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, Sept. 24 before taking on South Korea on Thursday, Sept. 26. The NMI concludes their campaign against Lebanon on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The team consists of 23
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LEIGH GASES

The NMI U20 Men's National Soccer Team poses for a group photo during their sendoff ceremony last Tuesday at the NMSA conference room in the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium before their trip to Salmiya, Kuwait for the Asian Football Confederation U20 Asian Cup 2025 Qualifiers.

Santos scorches in August tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR



Ronnie Santos topped the Fil-Taga Golfers Association's August Ace of the Month Tournament that was held last Aug. 18 at the Coral Ocean Resort in Agingan.

The 62-year-old Division of Revenue & Tax staff shot a net score of 69 after firing a 40 and 44 in the front and back nine. The 15-handicapper had a gross of 84.

The Taytay, Rizal in the Philippines native said course conditions last Aug. 18 at the Larry Nelson-designed golf course were fair.

"I had a lot of best holes because I managed to do a lot of chipping near the hole and made several 1-putts to save par," said Santos when asked about his round.

Dan Ganacias came second to Santos at a stroke back with his net 70 (43-38,

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Ronnie Santos



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Alliana's Ron Esmeres put up a free throw attempt during one of their games in the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024 Semi Open Division at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Alliana's Jobert Meriales get fouled during a layup attempt in one of their games in the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024 Semi Open Division at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Alliana's win 2 in a row

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Alliana's has won two in a row in the Win Pacific Invitational Basketball League 2024 Semi Open Division.

They won via their second game in a blowout, 99-69, over Lakay last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

It was a back-and-forth first quarter as both teams tried to get the better of the other.

Lakay and Alliana's were both looking for their second win in as many games.

It was a game of who wanted it most as Alliana's starting five all contributed and pulled away from Lakay toward the end of the first quarter. Vinz Rodriguez put up a 3 followed by 2 points by Ariel Moises to secure a 6-point 23-17 lead at the end of the first.

The second quarter was still a close game as Lakay's Rodell Pastrana and Joseph Torres were a duo that tore up the court. Pastrana used his height while Torres used his speed to keep them close, 29-35.

The second half, however, saw a change of pace as Alliana's began to convert more attempts, while Lakay's offense broke down. At the end of the third, Alliana's lead exploded into a huge 20-point margin, 65-45.

It was too little too late for Lakay to play catch up in the last quarter as Alliana's Ray Singca, Jude Tengco, Jobert Meriales, and Mark Demonte-verde bore down on them with hustle plays and more accurate takes at the basket. Lakay failed to manufacture points and succumbed to a 30-point loss, 69-99.

Singca led Alliana's with 25 points, while Jude Tengco contributed 18, and Meriales scored 12. On the other hand, Pastrana had a game high 29

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